

NONCE

AND ITS "FIGHT ON BLIGHT"

TO HELP BUILD A

NEW NEWARK

NEWARK COMMISSION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION AND REHABILITATION

...is composed of 18 representative members from the professions, business and labor. Originally appointed by the Mayor as an unofficial advisory group, it was made a legal arm of Newark city government in July, 1956.

THE GOAL - NCNCR is dedicated to "better housing for the people of Newark through upgrading of codes, law enforcement, slum clearance, neighborhood conservation and rehabilitation, education and citizen participation."

GETTING THE JOB DONE

By working closely with all branches of city government and citizens throughout Newark, here are some of the direct accomplishments of NCNCR

- Existing housing codes were given detailed study. Sweeping amendments were drafted and have been enacted into law. These new codes will eliminate overcrowding, cold water flats, lack of adequate sanitary facilities and all conditions leading to slum breeding.
- A Housing Magistrate was appointed by the Mayor. Instead of a 2½ year backlog of housing violation cases, the calendar is current. Loopholes formerly used by the Landlords have been eliminated. Violations are swiftly prosecuted.

The Continuing "Fight on Blight"

To prevent the slums from spilling over into the good residential areas of the City, an effective conservation program is

being carried out under the direction of the Assistant Health Officer. Two teams of inspectors, in an intensive 12 months tour of inspections, have been responsible for the abatement of violations in 1300 city blocks in good residential neighborhoods. The results speak for themselves in block after block of newly painted homes, remodeled garages, new front steps, and a new interest on the part of the occupants in upgrading the entire area. These areas will be reinspected once every 7 months.

- MCNCR was responsible for introduction and enactment of amendments to New Jersey Local Public Housing Laws. Municipal officials now have rehabilitation and conservation powers as well as the authority to delegate these powers to any agency they desire.
- MCNCR was also responsible for the introduction and adoption of Amendment Chapter 197, Laws of 1956, effective 1/2/57, simplifying the procedure of moving for demolition of unsafe and unfit buildings. Newark has now introduced a conforming ordinance.
- The use of portable oil stoves was banned. Since this legislation went into effect, July 4, 1956, the number of serious fires in Newark has been greatly reduced. The annual saving in human lives and property reaches tremendous proportions.

- A treasury for 7 Community Councils was established by co-sponsoring an ACTION film with the Newark Economic Development Committee. This treasury enabled 7 civic groups to start individual rehabilitation projects in their neighborhoods. These 7 groups are now working together under the banner of Associated Community Councils.
- By working closely with all 7 Neighborhood Councils, black groups and street organizations, rehabilitation programs were set up. Exhaustive studies of every area in the city were made...Philadelphia was visited to study that city's renewal program...conferences were held with local, state, regional and federal representatives of H.H.F.A. and Urban Renewal Administration...field trips were made to all areas of Newark.
- Working with the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council and Newark's Planning Officer, a pilot project program was developed. Two realtor members of the Commission have appraised the real estate properties in the Clinton Hill project area. MCNCR and the Planning Officer have developed the data necessary for an Assisted Urban Renewal project application and has recommended to the Mayor and Council that the application be filed without delay.
- MCNCR and the Central Planning Board have prepared an application for a Demonstration Grant (F.H.A. Section 314) for the purpose of developing a ten year continuing program of neighborhood conservation and rehabilitation. This application has been approved by the Mayor and Municipal Council and submitted to the Urban Renewal Administration.

- The Clinton Hill Plan will save a 1 1/4-block residential area from creeping blight. The lessons learned here will be applied to other sections of the city. The Plan calls for 10 acres of parks and recreational areas, zoning changes, off-street parking, razing of old buildings and changing street patterns by a series of greenways. House to house inspections will be carried out to strictly enforce housing codes. If the application is approved by the Urban Renewal Administration two-thirds of the cost of this project will be borne by the Federal Government and one-third by the City of Newark.
- MCNCR has participated in the "New Newark" television programs... has taken part in ACTION workshop Urban Renewal Conferences at M.I.T....has attended hundreds of meetings in the City to explain the rehabilitation program and to encourage citizen participation. It has acted as a clearing house for complaints, suggestions and inquiries of the public.

LET'S LOOK AT IT THIS WAY...

Newark has the second highest density population rate in America. A half-million commuters stream in and out of the city every working day. Higher income groups have been moving to the suburbs. A high percentage of Newark dwellings is very old. Twenty per cent of these buildings (approximately 24,000) are rundown...dilapidated. Most have no private bathing facilities.

The job of making a New Newark can be accomplished only by the determination of its citizens, to throw out the bad...and to bring in the good.

NCNCR has received wonderful and complete co-operation from the Mayor, Members of the Municipal Council, all branches of the City Government, business and labor leaders, by Newark citizens everywhere. From the progress already made...from the plans already formulated...by the enthusiasm of its people, Newark is decidedly on its way to being a Now Newark!

DO YOUR PART TO MAKE NEWARK A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE,
TO WORK AND TO PLAY! YOU CAN LIVE IN A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD
WITHOUT MOVING AWAY!

For information about the program and how you can be
part of it, write to:

THE NEWARK COMMISSION FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION
AND REHABILITATION, ROOM 210, CITY HALL, NEWARK 2,
NEW JERSEY.